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Monday, April 25, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroBOS | f: MetroBoston

THOR IS ALL FOR GIRL POWER

Chris Hemsworth made 'Huntsman' for his daughter. 13

Teen threatens to bomb Trump rally: Cops. 4

AccuWeather offers 90-day forecast. 2

CATCHING UP

Danny Picard says the Red Sox' recent contributions from Christian Vazquez is turning around the team. 17

GETTY IMAGES

3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

HUNT CONTINUES FOR SUSPECTS IN OHIO MURDER SPREE

1 A manhunt for a suspect or suspects in the execution-style killings of eight family members in south-central Ohio entered its second full day on Sunday, with authorities providing no fresh information about the investigation. The victims, all members of the Rhoden family in Pike County, Ohio, were discovered in four separate homes on Friday. They ranged in age from 16 to 44. A newborn infant, a 6-month-old and a 3-year-old all survived the shootings. Local media reported that the mother of the newborn was in bed with her baby when she was shot. "I can't believe how anyone could kill a mother with her 4-day-old baby in her arms," Phil Fulton, pastor of the Union Hill Church in Peebles, the town where the shootings took place, told CNN. REUTERS

THREE FEDERAL AGENTS SHOT IN KANSAS GUN BATTLE WITH SUSPECT

2 Three federal law enforcement officers were wounded in an exchange of gunfire with a suspect at a motel in Topeka, Kansas, authorities said on Sunday. A joint fugitive task force that included the U.S. Marshals Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and local law enforcement attempted to arrest a suspect at the Country Club Motel in Topeka around 10 p.m. on Saturday, according to Amy McCarter, a spokeswoman for the Topeka Police Department. Two deputy U.S. marshals and an FBI agent suffered nonlife-threatening injuries in the gun battle. A fire also started at the motel during the exchange, McCarter said. Authorities have not disclosed the name of the suspect. McCarter and a spokeswoman for the U.S. Marshals Service said the status of the suspect was still unknown due to the fire, which burned throughout much of the night. One of the marshals has already been released from the hospital, while the other is stable. REUTERS

PENNSYLVANIA VOTERS TORN OVER CALLS FOR A FRACKING BAN

3 For some Democratic voters in Pennsylvania, Tuesday's primary election will be more than just a chance to pick preferred candidates for public office — it will be a minireferendum on the future of the state's downtrodden fracking industry. Three candidates on the ballot, including Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders and two Democratic U.S. Senate hopefuls, want to ban or pause the controversial oil and gas drilling technique, splitting an electorate in parts of the state concerned about both jobs and the environment. REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

BOLARIS' WEATHER WATCH: 90-DAY FORECAST ... VERY SEXY

AccuWeather, the global leader in weather information and digital media, just launched what they describe as "their best-kept strategic secret" — the 90-day forecast.

It's a day by day weather forecast meant to help you plan months ahead, including the exact high and low temperatures. That means you can potentially know whether your wedding day will be rained out, or possibly snowed on. You can have an idea of what kind of weather to expect on your birthday, beach day, vacation week, concert or outdoor sporting event.

Oh boy, now we've reached the age where we don't ever need to plan ahead weatherwise, as we can simply pick a date and know what to expect.

The local television forecasters will need some extra time now. Forget about that seven-day forecast. Now we need to put up the 90- or 180-day forecast (yes, they have an 180-day forecast as well).

TV weather heads will be jumping for joy as now they will need at least another 15 minutes added to their airtime to go through the complete and exclusive 90-to-180-day forecast.

I guess you can tell I'm having a little fun.

Listen, AccuWeather is a global giant serving over 1.5 billion people, and it's been around for 54 years. It is certainly the most successful and dominant weather company on the planet, so they must be doing something right.

Other weather companies have been doing not only the 180-day outlook, but the 365-day forecast for years. See "Weather Planner and Planalytics," although Planalytics is strictly for business weather intelligence and are the very best at it.

Boston local forecast

Today: Clouds dominate, 58

Tuesday: Chilly rain, 45

Wednesday: Return to sun, 57

Thursday: Clouds and sun, 55

Friday: Changeable skies, 56

Saturday: Some sun, 60

Sunday: Showers, 55

AccuWeather is brilliant at marketing, and even if the forecast turns out to be trash, it's really about the cash, and cash flow in any business model is king.

The 90-day forecast is really a climatological, computer-generated weather data, integrated globally and collected over the years, showing what normally should happen on any given day in any part of the country.

It's not a forecast, it's the climatological norm. But AccuWeather can't headline with that, it's not sexy and would never sell — and we all know sexy forecasts sell.

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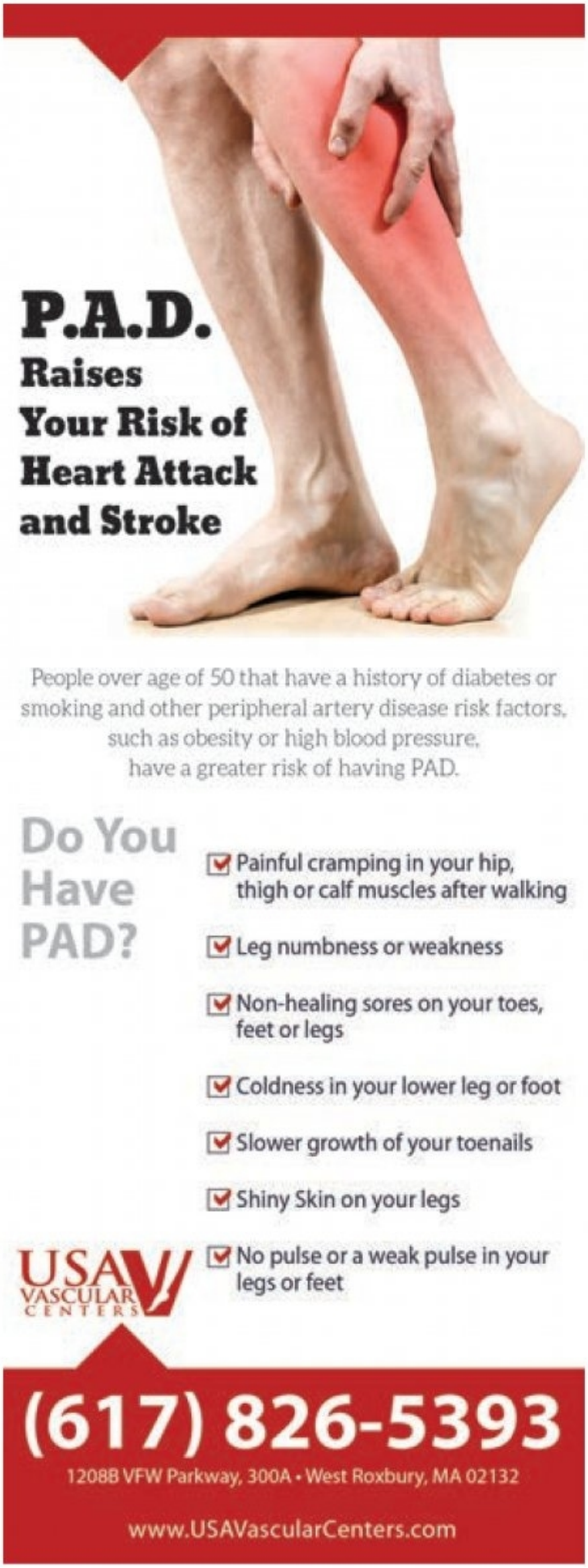
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Sean Morkys of Waterbury, Connecticut CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE

Police: Connecticut man tweeted threat to bomb Trump rally

Local officials discovered the account that made the bomb threats was linked to Sean Morkys.

A 20-year-old Connecticut man was arrested after being accused of sending threats on Twitter to bomb a rally for Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, authorities said on Sunday.

Sean Morkys of Waterbury, Connecticut, was charged with threatening, inciting injury and breach of peace.

The Secret Service, which is responsible for the safety of presidential candidates, alerted the Connecticut State Police's counterterrorism office on Saturday afternoon that a Twitter user had posted, "Is someone going to bomb the trump rally or am I going to have to?"

A second post warned a friend to tell relatives to leave the rally in Waterbury to avoid being harmed, state police said.

The account was linked to Morkys, who was interviewed at his home by local detectives and federal agents.

"The [Secret Service] determined that Morkys did not pose an immediate threat to any protectees or the public," the state police said.

Trump, the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, made several appearances across Connecticut on Saturday in advance of the state's primary election on Tuesday.

Morkys was released on a $25,000 bond and is scheduled to appear in court on May 4. REUTERS

Walsh involved in federal probe of labor unions

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh is reportedly involved in a federal investigation into allegations of strong-arm tactics made by workers' unions, according to WCVB Boston.

The investigation reportedly aims to determine whether labor officials threatened building developers who hired nonunion workers to work on planned high-rise building projects.

According to the Boston Globe, investigators set up wiretaps and secretly listened to Mayor Walsh's conversations with building developers in 2012. Walsh was the head of the Boston Building Trades from 2011 to 2013 before he resigned and decided to run for mayor.

A spokesperson from the mayor's office released an official statement stating that Mayor Walsh is a strong advocate for Boston workers and he's always worked ethically when he was head of Boston Building Trades.

"Prior to running for mayor, Marty Walsh spent a little over two years working for the building trades advocating on behalf of working men and women in and around Boston," the statement said. "He is confident that he always acted ethically and appropriately in that role. Whatever broad review of labor's activities that may be going on, it has little to do with the Walsh administration. The mayor will continue to make the necessary reforms in Boston to guarantee an open and inclusive development process." LENYON WHITAKER

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BRIEFS

Cops: Maine man arrested in Duxbury drive-by shootings
Police in Duxbury Tasered and arrested a Maine man early Sunday morning after he allegedly shot two men at random in what investigators described as a drive-by shooting.

Lucas McPherson, 25, of Mapleton, Maine, allegedly shot the first victim, 33, on Tremont Street around 1:15 a.m., Boston.com reported. Police reportedly noticed a "suspicious vehicle" in the area, according to the report.

The car was spotted later on Tobey Garden Street, where another man told police he'd been shot by the car's driver. Police reportedly subdued McPherson with a Taser, according to Boston.com, and recovered a shotgun in his car while arresting him.

He was due to be arraigned Monday, the report stated. Both victims suffered nonlife-threatening injuries. MORGAN ROUSSEAU

Lucas McPherson DUXBURY PD

Boston Beer slumps as Wall Street loses thirst

The company said it expects its shipments to fall between 2 percent and 4 percent this year.

Boston Beer Chairman Jim Koch recently warned that the craft beer market may already be near saturation. GETTY IMAGES

Boston Beer Co. shares slumped Friday after the brewer of Sam Adams posted quarterly revenue below Wall Street's expectations and warned that it lost business to a growing legion of small craft brewers.

Its shares dropped 10 percent, bringing their loss this year to 23 percent, with at least four analysts cutting their price targets for the stock after the company said late on Thursday its first-quarter net revenue fell 5 percent year-over-year to $189 million.

IPAs, pilsners, porters and stouts brewed by small regional brewers have become wildly popular in the United States in recent years, leading heavyweights like Anheuser Busch Inbev SA to increase their own higher-quality offerings.

In the March quarter, Boston Beer launched Samuel Adams Nitro White Ale, Samuel Adams Nitro IPA, Samuel Adams Nitro Coffee Stout and Samuel Adams Rebel Grapefruit IPA.

But those new beers were not enough to fend off competition from rivals and the company said it expects its shipments to fall between 2 percent and 4 percent this year.

On a conference call with analysts, Boston Beer Chairman Jim Koch estimated that as many as 4,800 craft brewers are operating in the United States, a number he said could dramatically increase. But he warned that the market may already be near saturation.

"The gating mechanism will probably be retailers reaching the point where adding more tap lines does not add to the craft beer sales," Koch said.

Following Boston Beer's report, Cowen and Co. Susquehanna, RBC and Jefferies cut their price targets for the stock.

Analysts had expected first-quarter revenue of $198 million, according to Thomson Reuters data. EPS was 53 cents, far below the 96 cents Wall Street expected.

The company's stock recently traded at about 22 times expected earnings, below its five-year average of around 25. Molson Coors Brewing Co. trades at about 25 times earnings. REUTERS

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Bob Graham: White House to make decision on 9/11 report by June

The Office of the U.S. Director of National Intelligence is reviewing the material to see whether it can be declassified.

Former Sen. Bob Graham GETTY IMAGES

The White House will likely make a decision by June on whether it will release some classified material withheld from the public 9/11 Commission Report, a former senator who co-chaired the congressional inquiry into the attacks said on Sunday.

The withheld section of the official report on the 2001 attacks is central to a dispute over whether Americans should be able to sue the Saudi Arabian government for damages.

Former Sen. Bob Graham, a Florida Democrat, has been pressing for the release of the information and said that it may shed light on the financial backers for 19 hijackers who killed nearly 3,000 people on Sept. 11, 2001.

Graham told NBC's "Meet the Press" that he believed that some of the withheld classified material could soon be released.

"The president's staff at least has said that they will make a decision by June, and I hope that decision is to honor the American people and make it available," Graham said.

Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, said last week that he also supported releasing the material.

"The release of these pages will not end debate over the issue, but it will quiet rumors over their contents," Rep. Schiff said in a statement. "As is often the case, the reality is less damaging than the uncertainty." REUTERS

Obama 'deeply concerned' about surge in Syria violence

President Barack Obama said during a visit to Germany on Sunday that he was "deeply concerned" about a surge in violence in Syria, where government forces have stepped up bombing of rebel-held areas around the strategic city of Aleppo.

Speaking after talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel at a 17th century palace near the northern city of Hanover, Obama spoke of a "tragic humanitarian crisis" in Syria and said he continued to believe in a political solution to the fighting.

Germany is the last stop on a six-day foreign tour where Obama has sought to shore up U.S. alliances he views as important to increase trade, defeat Islamic State militants and counter Russian intervention in both Syria and Ukraine.

"We remain deeply concerned about the upsurge in fighting in Syria over the last several days, and we continue to agree that the only real durable solution is a political solution that moves Syria towards an inclusive government that represents all Syrians," Obama said.

Merkel urged parties to peace talks in Geneva, which are at risk of collapse, to agree humanitarian zones where fleeing Syrians could feel free from bombardment. She and Obama made clear that they did not favor the creation of classical "safe zones" which would need to be protected by foreign forces. REUTERS

Syrian refugees walk in a forest in Macedonia after illegally crossing the Greek-Macedonian border near the city of Gevgelija. GETTY IMAGES

Migrants seek new routes into Balkans

After weeks stranded at a closed border in northern Greece, migrants and refugees are seeking out new, irregular routes to get into Macedonia, clambering through forests and over hills under the cover of darkness.

As dusk fell on Saturday evening, a Reuters witness saw a group of up to 70 people crossing into Macedonia from Greece, at a point where there is no razor wire fence between the two countries. They darted in and out of a forest, hiding from authorities.

It was roughly a 12 mile, or four hour walk from Idomeni, a sprawling tent city hosting thousands of refugees and migrants stranded by a cascade of border shutdowns throughout the Balkans in February.

Others at the campsite were also mulling their options to leave Idomeni and find vulnerable points along the border to cross into the Balkans, the preferred route to western Europe.

"There is no other solution," said Moutaz, a Syrian from Aleppo.

"Let him [others] put himself in my position, what would he do with this life we are living? Will he be OK with it, what is happening and what he is seeing?"

Human rights organizations say the living conditions at Idomeni are appalling.

Fellow Syrian Eyas from Damascus said he would attempt to cross the Albanian border further west. "There is a chance you will get there through the Macedonia route but the Macedonian military will send you back," he told Reuters.

Some people chance the trek on their own. Others use traffickers, who charge anything between $350 and $600 per person to smuggle people across the border.

A million migrants, many fleeing Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries in conflict in the Middle East, Asia and Africa have poured into Europe through Greece since last year.

There are more than 10,200 people camped out in tents in the fields of Idomeni. Greek authorities have repeatedly urged refugees and migrants to move to organized reception centers elsewhere in the country.

Last month, Turkey and the EU sealed a controversial deal intended to halt the flow of illegal migrants into Greece from Turkey in return for financial and political rewards for Ankara.

There is now growing concern that migrants will increasingly use Italy as their conduit into Europe after the EU-Turkey pact, with more boats coming from North Africa — or even across the Adriatic Sea from the Balkans after the border closures there. REUTERS

BRIEF

One dead, 26 wounded as rockets hit Turkish town near Syrian border

Rockets pounded the Turkish town of Kilis near the Syrian border on Sunday, a Reuters witness reported, killing one person and injuring 26, a day after the government promised to protect the area from repeated attacks by Islamic State militants.

Two rockets struck houses in a poor neighborhood near the town center in the morning. Sixteen people were injured and Turkish soldiers near the border returned fire into Syria, security sources said.

Later in the day, one person was killed and 10 more injured when two more rockets crashed into a mosque, Hurriyet Daily News reported. The mosque was 100 meters from the governor's office, where Deputy Prime Minister Yalcin Akdogan was holding talks at the time.

"I am calling for our citizens to be calm," Akdogan told a news conference in Kilis. "All measures will be taken in this regard. Unfortunately there is no authority across our border."

Akdogan said measures would be announced after a cabinet meeting on Monday.

Police later used a water cannon to disperse residents who were protesting what they said was the government's lack of action over the attacks, Dogan news agency reported.

Some of the residents called on the local governor to resign, while others shouted slogans against the government.

"My son wakes up with nightmares ... We aren't safe here. We are afraid to stay in our houses," Ayse, a 46-year-old woman, told Reuters.

Lying just across the border from an area of Syria controlled by Islamic State, Kilis has been peppered by rocket fire in recent weeks. REUTERS

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RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

BRIEF

Aide: Trump's toned-down demeanor doesn't mean policy change

Donald Trump's more presidential style on the campaign trail is not a signal that he will retreat on core policies such as his pledge build a wall on the Mexican border, his top adviser said on Sunday.

Senior Trump aide Paul Manafort dismissed accusations by rival Republican Ted Cruz that the real estate mogul had lied about his policies on immigration to "fool gullible voters."

Cruz said that after Manafort told a closed-door meeting of top Republican officials last week that the party's White House front-runner would temper the image he has projected so far, saying the "part that he's been playing is now evolving."

Manafort said Cruz was trying to distract from his tough path to the nomination, especially with primary elections coming in Pennsylvania and other states where polls show Trump ahead.

He predicted his candidate would win on the first ballot at the Republican National Convention in July. Trump has won more states than Cruz has, but Cruz hopes to keep him from earning the 1,237 delegates needed to secure the nomination at the Cleveland gathering.

"He's trying to say the process doesn't matter. He's trying to say voting doesn't matter. He's trying to say all that matters is to destroy the party and see who can pick up the pieces on a second, third or fourth ballot," Manafort said of the Texas senator. "We're not going to let that happen."

REUTERS

GAME OF GROANS

For everyone who dreads the idea of Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump becoming president (and there are plenty of both), this week could be as unwelcome as a dire wolf at a barbecue. Here are my three things to watch.

1. ON THE MARCH

The twin armies of the front-runners will be storming down the East Coast this week and likely collecting delegates by the score. Pennsylvania is the biggest prize. And for all the continuing talk of contested conventions, if this week goes well for Trump and Clinton they may finally be able to say with reasonable certainty that the nominations are theirs. Watch the margins — keep an eye on the delegate allocations — and polish your armor for a general election that could prove a clash of titans.

2. WINTER IS COMING

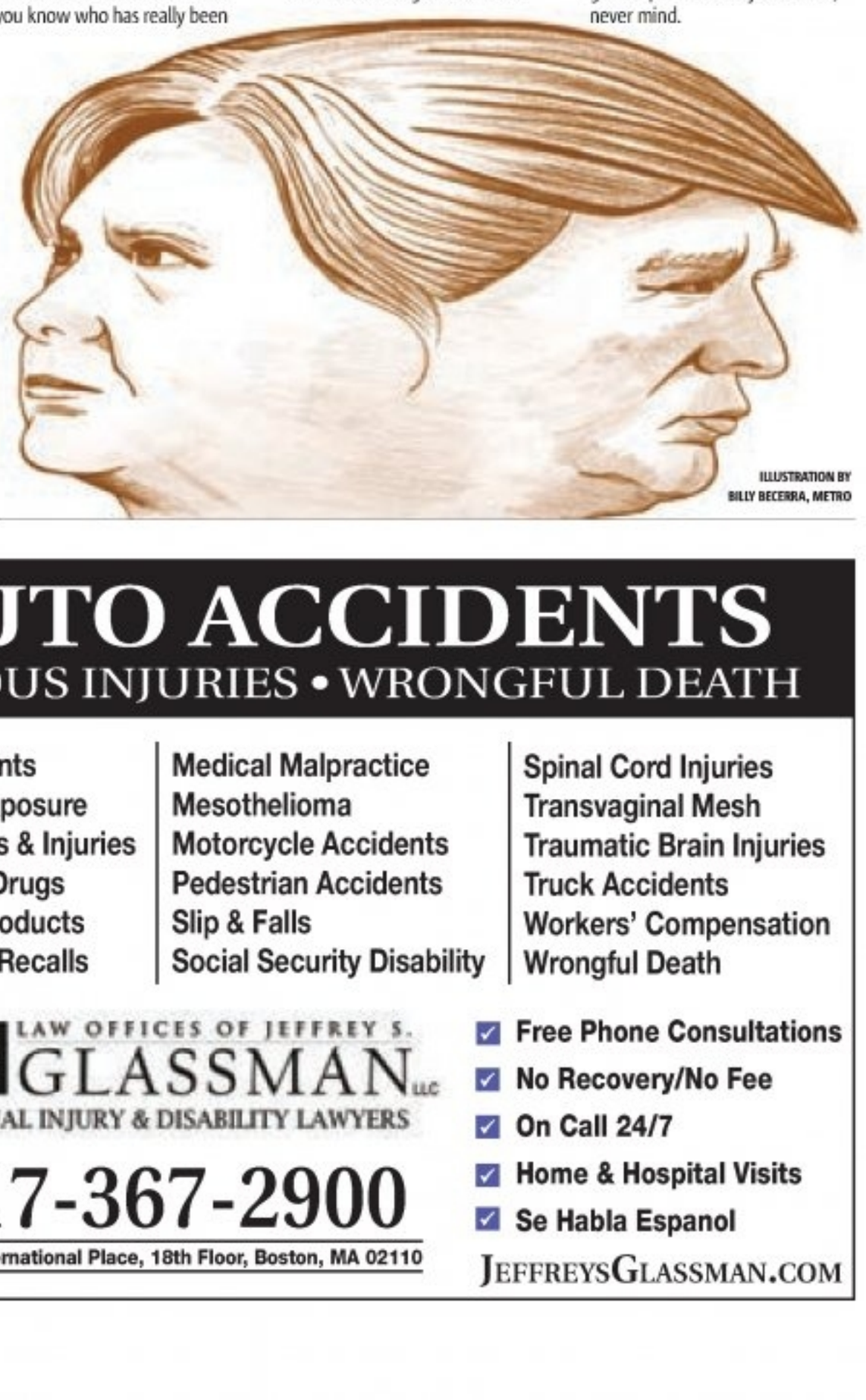
As far as the results, John Kasich has barely shown up in the primaries and caucuses — but you know who has really been missing? The #NeverTrump folks. This loose amalgam of activists has vowed to stop Trump's relentless drive to the nomination, but so far he's been like a dragon going through tissue paper. Sure, they may regroup for a general election. But if they don't produce some results this week, you can call their castle sacked.

3. SHADOW PLAY

Ted Cruz has not been so lucky winning delegates, but he has been steadily making sure many of his loyalists will be on the delegate list at the Republican convention. These are people who will do their duty and vote for Trump, but who will quickly switch to Cruz as soon as the rules say they can. He did it again this past weekend so you can expect more talk about his chances in the so-called Shadow Convention. Because *if* Donald Trump fails to clinch the nomination before the convention, and *if* a floor fight follows, and *if* all those double agent delegates come through — you get the picture. And *if* not ... um, never mind.

TOM FOREMAN
Opinion

CNN's Tom Foreman is the author of the new book "My Year of Running Dangerously."



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Fed seen holding rates this week with hike still on horizon

Federal Reserve policymakers are expected to hold interest rates steady when they meet this week, but may tweak their description of the economic outlook to reflect more benign conditions, leaving the path open for future rate rises.

The Fed raised its policy interest rate last December for the first time in a decade when market volatility finally subsided in the wake of a scare over China's economy.

Similarly, early this year markets wobbled on worries about a slowdown in global economic growth and weak U.S. corporate earnings, leading to expectations for further Fed rates rises to be revised down, so Fed policymakers may be wary of this week sending too strong a message of an imminent policy tightening.

Many Fed officials remain spooked by the steep stock market drop earlier this year and by weak first-quarter U.S. economic data. Concrete signs of higher inflation and growth may be needed before the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), the Fed's policy committee, continues with the projected gradual path toward more normal levels of interest rates.

Though the U.S. economy is generating jobs and consumer prices have risen, providing support for a Fed interest rate rise, weakness in retail sales and international trade, as well as concern about China's economy, are among reasons Fed Chair Janet Yellen will stay cautious about further rate hikes before the second half of the year.

Markets have already anticipated such an approach, seeing no chance of a rate increase at this week's meeting on April 26-27 of the FOMC, and are pricing in just a one in five chance of a move at the next meeting on June 14-15. Reuters polling of market participants sees two rate hikes this year.

"I don't think they can pull off a June hike without triggering another round of volatility, and they don't want that because the selloff in January and February left a deep scar," Aneta Markowska, chief U.S. economist at Societe Generale, said in New York.

Fed Chairwoman Janet Yellen GETTY IMAGES

"The FOMC can't go too hawkish overnight because markets aren't pricing in anything close to that."

Last week the European Central Bank held its policy rates at historic lows and while the Fed is also set to stand pat for now, its policymakers will not stay silent for too long as markets are pricing in barely one rate hike this year, compared with the Fed's view that two will probably be appropriate.

REUTERS

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About that Becky with good hair Beyonce mentioned

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Beyonce laid out a lot of truth with her "Lemonade" visual album this weekend, but there's one more lesson to be learned: Don't mess with the Beyhive. While speculation began almost immediately about the identity of the name-checked "Becky with the good hair" in her track "Sorry," one sort-of celebrity seemed eager to provide an answer. Fashion designer Rachel Roy — rumored to be the cause of Jay-Z's elevator squabble with Solange Knowles — decided to be all cavalier and offer up an Instagram post after the HBO special aired with the caption, "Good hair don't care, but we will take good lighting, for selfies, or self truths, always. live in the light #nodramaqueens." That? Was not so bright. Obviously, Beyonce's fans took notice, and it says something that by Sunday morning the photo was deleted and Roy's Instagram account had gone private.

the word

NED EHRBAR
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Dave Chappelle calls Prince's death 'black 9/11'

The ever-elusive Dave Chappelle understandably took the loss of Prince pretty hard. And this weekend the icon's death nearly made him miss a show in San Francisco. "I almost thought about not coming tonight, but my band was like, 'Yo, Prince would definitely not condone that,'" Chappelle told the crowd, according to SFGate, calling Prince's passing "the black 9/11" — and usually I'd take him to task for a hyperbole violation, but he kind of has a point this time. "It's so much better that we grieve together," Chappelle said. He's got a point.

DAILY VIDEO

YOUTUBE

Bruce Springsteen opens Brooklyn show with 'Purple Rain'

There were no shortage of Prince tributes this weekend — especially with Coachella barreling into its second weekend and all — but few matched up to the passion and prominence of this one: Bruce Springsteen, one of the last of Prince's reigning '80s superstar contemporaries, opening his Saturday night concert at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn with a stirring rendition of "Purple Rain" — on a purple-drenched stage. Sing it, Boss.

Regis Philbin is Team Kelly

While we wait to see exactly when or if Kelly Ripa will come back to "Live with Kelly and Michael" following the fallout over Michael Strahan's surprise departure announcement, we at least know who's sticking up for the plucky daytime host: former co-host Regis Philbin.

"I know what it is. They should have told her in the beginning," he said in response to the news, though he seems to think the next few months before Strahan leaves for "Good Morning America" will be smooth sailing. "They're going to be alright. It'll be fine."

Prince George, fashionista

If you want to get cozy in style at home like Prince George — in his absolutely adorable bathrobe — you'll have to wait. The robe, a comfy, personalized white number with blue gingham piping, costs 27 pounds (almost $39) at online store My 1st Years — or at least it did, until it sold out. "We can't believe Prince George wore our robe to meet President Obama. Doesn't he look adorable?" the store's Facebook posted. "You guys have gone crazy for it and it's already sold out, but you can find your very own personalized royal robe." Or you can just wait until it's back in stock. But better hurry, as back orders are piling up.

@kerrywashington
Lemonade hangover.

@Oprah
"No greater battle in life than the battle between the parts of u that want to be healed and the parts of u content remaining broken."

@danieltosh
on behalf of every dog owner, i'd like to initiate a boycott of any product that uses a doorbell in their commercial.

@Sethrogen
Watched Victor Frankenstein and Point Break remake today. Oddly thematic. Dead things being brought back to life to disastrous effect.

Chris Hemsworth gets beat up by girls

The "Thor" star enjoys when Jessica Chastain hurts him in "The Huntsman: Winter's War."

MATT PRIGGE
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In "The Huntsman: Winter's War," Chris Hemsworth returns as Eric the Hunter, who this time gets a love interest in a fellow fighter played by Jessica Chastain. GILES KEYTE

Chris Hemsworth may be the last of the old-school, alpha-male movie he-men, but he doesn't do old-school movies. Once upon a time he would have been the main draw. Now, in the Marvel movies — in which he's the resident Thor — and the new "The Huntsman: Winter's War," the actor, 32, is surrounded by a diversity of strong characters that aren't just hulking white dudes.

In the film, a sequel to 2012's "Snow White and the Huntsman," his do-gooder fights alongside mighty women, both good (a love interest played by Jessica Chastain) and evil (Emily Blunt and Charlize Theron's nefarious queen sisters). That's a great thing, Hemsworth thinks.

GETTY IMAGES

Stretching out

You did "Ghostbusters" recently. Are there other types of roles you wish you were offered more?

"Rush" was a pretty special experience for me — things you can draw comparisons to from your own experiences. I've been in so many fantasy-heavy costumes, which I do love. I'd love something contemporary — jeans and a T-shirt, just to mix things up.

It's refreshing that you're the lone man amidst strong female characters.

It's not something I realized prior to shooting. It suddenly dawned on me how wonderful these three strong female characters were. I thought how great it is for my daughter to see women not portrayed as damsels in distress, needing to be rescued by the prince. Instead these women control their own destinies, they lead armies, they rule kingdoms. That's really encouraging.

Eric the Huntsman is a little lighter this time. He has flirty-angry banter with Chastain, who's as strong as he is.

I didn't want him to be brooding and depressed — that sort of hulking what-you-call-it. There was certainly a different attitude to him. He was a hopeless romantic and completely in awe of these women. They were equals. It was nice to spar with someone who was the same as me. Jessica, her character kicks my character's a— [laughs] quite a few times in the film. Which he may or may not deserve.

When you're watching effects-heavy films, do you sometimes think, "I don't remember doing that"?

That's part of the fun for me. You don't see all the creatures and the goblins you're fighting. There's usually a tennis ball on a stick. I get a real kick out of seeing what things were beating me up.

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That swag

Could you pull this look off? GETTY IMAGES

Why everyone from rock divas to your mom lusted over Prince.

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Not many men can wear purple. Even fewer can rock ruffles.

No mortal can pull off a pearl-studded paisley suit with pink feathers — unless, of course, that alleged mortal is Prince.

It's not that Prince was the first pop star to dress outrageously. The '70s set the sartorial bar pretty high with glam rock, Elton and Cher. He had plenty of company in the '80s, when hair was big and eye makeup was bigger.

The thing about Prince was that the clothes were, somehow, an afterthought. Prince was a spectacle, of course, but unlike his peers and his desperate-to-be-peers, he was a thoroughly natural spectacle. No matter how complicated the costume, the first thing you noticed and the thing you remembered was very, very simple: The guy looked *good*.

Call it *je ne sais quoi*, call it swagger, call it whatever you want — Prince had it and had it to spare. At a wispy 5'2," he was the kind of sexy that only comes around once in awhile, the kind of sexy that everyone just accepts on the spot and works into their definition of the word. It's not often that suburban moms lust after a man in a sequin cape, but then again, it's not often that a Prince comes around.

There was something otherworldly about Prince, something that makes it hard to believe he was here in the first place — and even harder to believe that he's gone.

The Boston Globe
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Can these pencils save the planet?

This entrepreneur is making sustainability simple, one writing implement at a time.

ALIZAH SALARIO
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Entrepreneur Michael Stausholm knows a good idea when he sees one. In 2012, when he came across a Kickstarter campaign from three MIT students who'd created a plantable pencil made from sustainable wood with a dissolvable seed-filled capsule at the end in lieu of an eraser, he knew he'd struck gold — or rather, green.

"[At the time] I was advising large companies on sustainability and responsible production, and everyone was talking about sustainability, but no one could explain it. I was told that the Sprout pencil was a great illustration of what sustainability is all about — they way you use a product and instead of throwing it out afterward, you plant it and literally give it new life," says Stausholm.

Just two years after buying the rights and patents of the pencil design, Stausholm owns and runs Sprout, which launched its first U.S. office in Boston in September (Sprout's other office is in Stausholm's native Denmark).

Though the company sold 1.7 million pencils in 2015 and profits are expected to hit $1 million in 2016, Stausholm wasn't always so sure his risk would pay off. Even a close friend told him investing in a plantable pencil was crazy. But what kept him going was his passion for and belief in sustainable products.

"I started it three years ago, and the first year was very tough," says Stausholm. "It was a success, but I didn't make much money for myself, and I came from a high-paying consulting job."

Here's how it works: When the pencils are used up, the capsules are planted and blossom into a variety of herbs, vegetables and edible flowers. The colored pencils are $19.61 for an assortment of eight, the mix of eight regular pencils is $18.09, and the mix of three is $7.45. Though the company has started a line of plantable cards, similar products with a "dual function" aren't all that common.

"Mostly companies develop products that you can easily recycle. But products with a totally different use, we don't really see that much," he says.

All Sprout pencils are made from sustainable cedar wood, meaning for every tree cut down, a new one is planted, so there's no deforestation involved in the production process — as long as the consumer follows through and plants it after use.

Pencil naysayers who think the old-school writing utensil is dead just need to look at the numbers: In 2015, between $13 billion and $14 billion pencils were produced globally.

"Because everything is going so fast today, with iPhones, smartphones and so on, people want to take it a little bit easier sometimes. Having to take notes with your hand, or mindful drawing, which is becoming very, very popular, with colored pencils, that's giving the pencil a revival," says Stausholm.

There's really no downside to the pencil — unless you're an eraser-chewer. "If you chew on the pencil, you get peet in your mouth. It's harmless, but it definitely helps you break the habit of chewing on the pencil." Though Sprout pencils are sold in 60 countries, the majority of the market is in Europe. The company is partnering with schools, companies and the Earth Day initiative to increase availability in the U.S.

Says Stausholm, "We can't save the world, but we can try to make a small difference in everyday life by purchasing sustainable and organic products."

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Perfecting the high school hustle

Here's how to make the most of the summer before your senior year.

JENNIFER SAWYER
@MetroBOS
letters@metro.us

For rising high school seniors, summer break can look less like a day at the beach, and more like college-prep crunch time. While everyone wants to make themselves as desirable as possible for their dream school, keep these guidelines in mind when considering how to spend your last (gasp!) high school summer break.

Rising seniors should pursue both their passions and the practical. ISTOCK

Pursue what legitimately interests you

"The key behind summer is to do something interesting and valuable for yourself," explains Jay Bacrania, CEO and co-owner of college-prep company Signet Education. "Colleges are looking at what you do when you don't have to do anything."

Demonstrate who you really are and how you engage with the world. If you like working with kids, consider mentoring or tutoring. Music lover? Spend time learning about the art of songwriting.

"If you focus on an interest, you've still done something valuable with your time," Bacrania says.

Consider the practical

When making summer plans, first consider your actual obligations. "Summer can be a time to shore up academic weaknesses, so if a student really bombed a class for one reason or another, they might want to retake it for their for academic future," Bacrania says.

Likewise, if you need a paying job, there's no need to look down upon working in retail. "If a student has to work, that shows a real responsibility. It's just as impressive as volunteering."

Avoid the temptation to "compare and despair"

Comparing your summer plans to everyone else's only leads to second guessing. "It's the paradox of choice," Bacrania says. "The more choices you have, the more stressed out you can get." Instead of obsessing over other people's résumés, shift the focus back to your own skills.

Take time to reflect

A break from the daily grind of schoolwork can create space for thinking deeper about your goals and desires. "Summer is a really wonderful time for reflection and thinking," Bacrania says. Ask yourself, "'What did I do last year? What did I enjoy? How can I become better?'"

Don't schedule your life away

With the amount of pressure on high school students, it's easy to think that your every waking moment should be devoted to college prep. But Bacrania says "you shouldn't do something without a good, authentic reason." So take time to relax and just be a kid — while you still can.

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RED SOX' SUCCESS WITH CHRISTIAN VAZQUEZ BEHIND PLATE IS NO COINCIDENCE

DANNY PICARD

OPINION

"The Danny Picard Show" airs every weekday at DannyPicard.com. Danny can also be heard on WEEI 93.7 FM. @dannypicard

The Red Sox are certainly pleased with the boost Christian Vazquez has given the entire team. GETTY IMAGES

Walk into any MLB clubhouse and every pitcher will tell you the same thing.

"Throw with conviction."

That's the goal. Starters, relievers, it doesn't matter. If you can pitch with conviction, you'll have success.

Easier said than done, of course. Just ask most of the Boston Red Sox' rotation. I say "most" because I'm talking about everyone not named David Price. His career speaks for itself.

But for guys like Clay Buchholz, Rick Porcello and Joe Kelly, it's one thing to say you need to pitch with conviction. It's another thing to go out every fifth night and actually do it. And those three starters began the season as the biggest question marks for the 2016 Red Sox.

That is, until Christian Vazquez re-entered the picture.

Vazquez was activated from the 15-day disabled list on April 15 and made his season debut later that night against Toronto. The 25-year-old catcher began the season on a minor-league rehab assignment, finishing his yearlong recovery from Tommy John surgery that forced him to miss all of 2015.

In his season debut against the Blue Jays, Vazquez got the start behind the plate, hitting eighth. He went 2-for-4 with two runs scored in a 5-3 win. But it wasn't his offense that made him the talk of the town. It was the way he called the game for Porcello, the way he framed borderline strikes, and the way he picked off Troy Tulowitzki at first base on a strike-him-out, throw-him-out, inning-ending double play.

It marked Porcello's second win of the season in just his second start. But he looked like a different guy. He was pitching with conviction.

Some called it an overreaction to credit Vazquez for Porcello's eight-strikeout performance in which he only allowed two hits (both home runs). But it's not an overreaction if his presence is expected to be a difference-maker for this Red Sox pitching staff.

And for several years now, the expectations for Vazquez, inside the organization, have been as high as any prospect or young player they've had in recent memory.

Back in the winter leading up to the 2014 season, someone in the Red Sox organization explained to me why the team signed veteran catcher A.J. Pierzynski to a one-year contract, rather than re-signing World Champion Jarrod Saltalamacchia to the multi-year deal he was looking for.

"Christian Vazquez will be ready by June," said the source.

His timeline was somewhat off, but not by much. Vazquez was called up in July of 2014. And in the 55 games he played that year, the young catcher showed flashes of the comparisons I was told about by that same Red Sox source.

"Yadier Molina," he said at the time.

How about that? The Red Sox were making offseason roster moves to make room for Vazquez as early as December of 2013. So how could you possibly call it an "overreaction" to praise the kid right now?

And as it turns out, Vazquez' presence behind the plate didn't just help Porcello once. It also helped him again on Wednesday night, as he picked up his third win of the season, striking out nine in seven innings.

Still not buying in? Then just ask Buchholz about him. In the one game he's thrown to Vazquez, Buchholz turned in his best start of the season, throwing six-and-two-thirds shutout innings against Toronto on Marathon Monday.

What you've seen from Porcello and Buchholz in the last week is nothing more than confidence. And that confidence on the mound stems from the confidence that Vazquez oozes behind the plate.

Walk into the Red Sox clubhouse these days, and every pitcher will tell you the same thing: Vazquez is a difference-maker. So much so, that he's got Porcello and Buchholz getting back to something this Red Sox team so desperately needs from them.

They're pitching with conviction. And it's no coincidence that Vazquez is involved.

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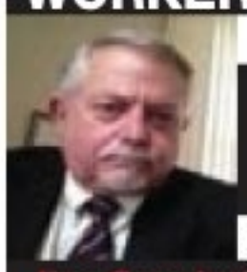

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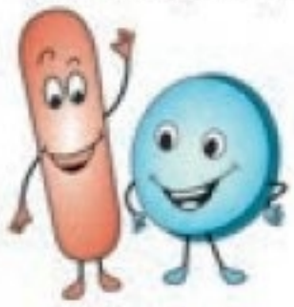

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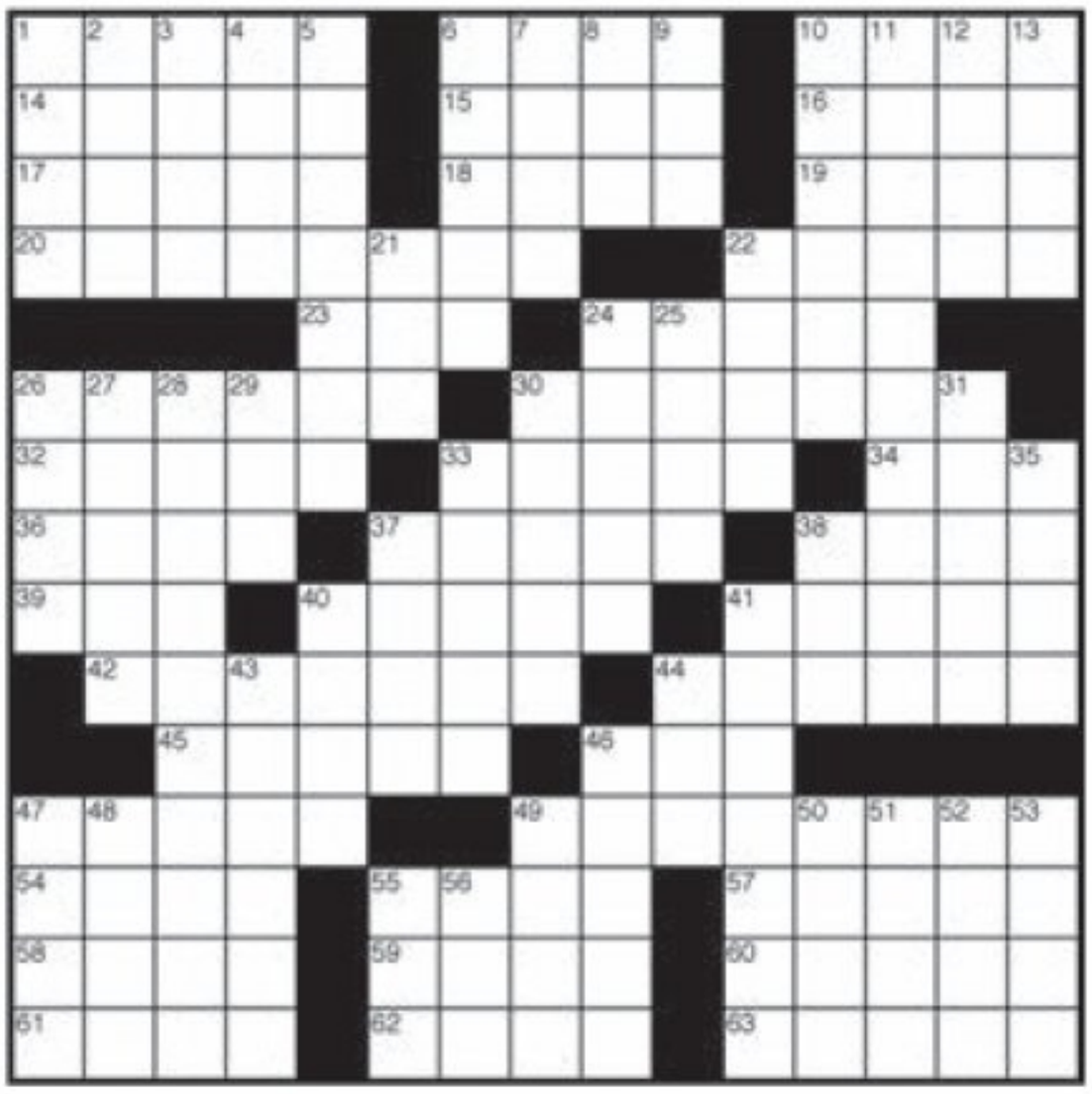

Across

1 Vise
6 Distant
10 "— — a Teenage Werewolf"
14 Four-bagger
15 Magnum venue
16 Hertz leader
17 Sports venue
18 Clancy's Jack —
19 Sheepskin holder
20 Fall apart
22 Gives the eye
23 Dixie, once
24 Pick up a lease
26 Logo
30 Seek old haunts
32 Caesar —
33 Synonym scouter
34 Weep
36 Battery chemical
37 Man from Havana
38 Wave away
39 Cousins of "um"
40 Brand name
41 Dirigible bottoms
42 Found seats
44 Rough-textured
45 Moves gingerly
46 Sunbathe
47 Deputy's need
49 Like a safe driver (2 wds.)
54 Sleep like — —
55 Nonsense!
57 Beyond banal
58 It had three parts
59 Toward shelter
60 Chieftain's plaids
61 Exact area
62 Dog-owner's shout
63 — box

Down

1 African lake
2 Petty or Loughlin
3 Iowa State city
4 Diner handout
5 Frisked about
6 Major artery
7 Dunaway of films
8 Just as I thought!
9 Depart quickly
10 Mirror —
11 "Salud" sayer (hyph.)
12 Flu symptom
13 Spade's namesakes
21 Belief
22 Don't count — —!
24 Kingly
25 Steady
26 Hairy twin
27 Temple city – Picchu
28 On cloud nine (2 wds.)
29 Stripling
30 In judge's garb
31 Handyman's supply
33 Yokels
35 Noise-canceling brand
37 Give a hoot
38 Wave maker
40 — -majeste
41 Heyerdahl's raft (hyph.)
43 Bargain with
44 Heat meas.
46 Snicker (hyph.)
47 Tea holders
48 Jai —
49 Dutch colonist
50 Writer – Bagnold
51 Surrealist painter
52 A law — itself
53 Dennis, to Mr. Wilson
55 Oompah- —
56 Fiesta shout

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easy

	7	2						
		8			6	7	5	
	4	3			8	1		2
				5				8
7			8		3			4
8				9				
9		6	4			2	1	
	1	7	9			6		
						8	3	

hard

7			9		2		4	1
						3		9
1			4		8	2		
2		5					6	
3								5
	8					1		2
		4	7		9			8
8		1						
6	2		8		1			3

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Don't hesitate to bring about change. Wheel and deal until you are in a position to advance. Don't be afraid to do things differently. Rely on yourself, not someone else.

Taurus You are best off speaking out if you want to avoid being poorly represented. Protect your money and possessions against loss or theft. Avoid joint ventures.

Gemini You may be questioned if you are inconsistent about the way you feel or what your expectations are. Don't take on too much or let indulgence tempt you.

Cancer Stick to your plan, regardless of how others react. It's important to show consistency if you want to be first. Partnerships and home improvements are favored.

Leo Personal changes will make you happy and encourage you to socialize more with valuable people. Interaction with children or elders will prove challenging.

Virgo Speak on your own behalf. Someone will misinterpret what you want to portray. Personal disagreements are best dealt with cautiously if you want to avoid regret.

Libra Getting together with people you adore will encourage you to plan a trip or night out on the town. An aggressive approach to love will bring you closer to someone special.

Scorpio Put more thought into cutting costs and using your space at home more efficiently. A partnership will influence an important decision regarding an investment or pending settlement.

Sagittarius Get the facts before you challenge someone in a position to make you look bad. Act on the personal changes you want to make. Romance will improve your life.

Capricorn Don't worry about what others are up to. Focus on home and family, and do your best to bring about a warm environment conducive to family fun and entertainment.

Aquarius Refuse to let anyone stand between you and your dreams. Make personal or physical changes that encourage a career move. Let your emotional energy be the force that drives you.

Pisces Observe the way people react to you before you respond. Personal progress will bring much better results than trying to change others. Offer encouragement, not criticism. **EUGENIA LAST**

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